

**Probation Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes  
August 29, 2008**

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on August 29, 2008.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Probation Committee were present: Julie Cantrell, David Chidester, Thomas Felts, Thomas Lett, Becky McClure, Robert Mrzlack, Mark Smith, and Mark Stoner, chair.
2. **Staff present.** Jane Seigel, Jenny Bauer, Michelle Goodman, and Bob Champion provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved.
4. **Odyssey Case Management - Supervision Module.** Justice Frank Sullivan appeared before the committee to announce that the Supreme Court recently made a significant investment in a supervision module for the Odyssey Case Management System. According to Justice Sullivan, this is the biggest Odyssey enhancement that the Supreme Court has contracted for. He said that the module is meant to go beyond probation and cover all court-based supervision, including problem-solving courts. The specifications for the module were developed through a collaborative effort with probation officers and community corrections officers. Justice Sullivan explained that Tyler Technology did not offer this module as part of the original Odyssey system because it was built for the Minnesota court system and probation there is an executive branch function. He said that the Court decided to stay with Tyler for this module because it made more sense to have it as part of one over-all system. Justice Sullivan introduced Mark Harvey of JTAC, who will work on the project. He also said that JTAC has hired Mark Rodriguez of Paperless Business Solutions to work as a consultant on the project. JTAC is already working on the project and expects to have the module ready by the summer of 2009.
5. **Intrastate Probation Transfers.** Judge Stoner reported that there is still no word from the Supreme Court on the committee's proposed revisions to Criminal Procedure Rule 2. Judge Stoner also reported that he is teaching judges about the new intrastate probation transfer policy at the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference in September. Jenny Bauer distributed the "To Do List" and FAQ list that the committee wants to distribute to chief probation officers. The committee approved the documents for distribution.
6. **Risk Assessment Project.** Michelle Goodman reported that the Judicial Center signed a contract with the University of Cincinnati to proceed with Indiana using Ohio's new public domain risk assessment instruments. Researchers from UC will conduct validation studies for use of the instruments in Indiana. The Judicial

Center is working to line up counties to participate in the validation study. The juvenile version of the instrument will be ready first and the Judicial Center hopes to begin training before the end of the year.

7. **ICOTS Pilot Project.** Bob Champion reported that Indiana is participating in the pilot project for the new Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System. Indiana's legacy data was finally loaded by the vendor this week. Mr. Champion said that Indiana has experienced a few glitches, but so far the pilot is going okay. ICOTS is set to go live nation-wide in October.
8. **Funding of Courts and Probation.** Judge Stoner led a discussion on the funding of trial courts and probation. He said that the Judicial Conference Board of Directors has been engaged in strategic planning, and one of the big issues is unification of courts and unification of probation departments. Judge Stoner stated that he and Judge Felts are serving on the Board's subcommittee for strategic planning. The Strategic Planning Committee has discussed centralized funding of the courts as part of the issue of unification. Judge Stoner said that funding of probation has been an issue ever since the probation salary schedule was revised in 1995. Don Travis reported that POPAI has been engaged in similar discussions on the topic of funding for probation. He said that POPAI started discussing this issue after it was mentioned in the Kernan-Shepard Report and plans to develop a position statement on the issue. The committee discussed inefficiencies that have become a part of probation. Judge Stoner pointed out that many small counties have more than one probation department. He said this results in there being multiple chief probation officers in a county, with each getting the salary add-on. Judge Stoner also stated that he thinks there will have to be a cost savings if the state funds the courts. Don Travis stated that some probation officers worry about losing county benefits that are better than state benefits. Judge Cantrell stated that she served in the Lake County prosecutor's office before she was elected as a judge and was given the option to keep her county health insurance. Jane Seigel told the committee that Chief Justice Shepard instructed that narrative and numbers be put into the Supreme Court's budget proposal concerning possible state funding of probation. The fundamental question raised by the committee was "should probationers bear all or part of the cost of the system?" The committee members agreed that the system should not be free for probationers, but that costs should not go much higher.
9. **Other business.** Bob Champion announced that new probation officer orientation is scheduled for October 14-17.
10. **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Probation Committee is November 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon by conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

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